

**In the Claims**

Please insert claims 1, 6, 8 and 13 as presented below in amended form:

*Handwritten: A3 SUB C1*

1 (Amended). A bi-phasic or multiphasic formulation comprising an oligonucleotide or bioequivalent thereof having one or more phosphorothioate linkages, and a water-soluble antioxidant.

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6. The formulation of claim 1, wherein said antioxidant is cysteine, glutathione,  $\alpha$ -lipoic acid, a 2-mercapto-5-benzimidazole salt or a 2-mercaptoethanesulfonic acid salt.

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8 (amended). A method of preventing desulfurization of an oligonucleotide or bioequivalent thereof comprising combining an oligonucleotide having one or more phosphorothioate linkages with a water-soluble antioxidant in a bi-phasic or multi-phasic formulation.

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13. The method of claim 8, wherein said antioxidant is cysteine, glutathione,  $\alpha$ -lipoic acid, a 2-mercapto-5-benzimidazole salt or a 2-mercaptoethanesulfonic acid salt.

**REMARKS**

After entry of the amendment, claims 1-14 will be pending. Claims 1, 6, 8 and 13 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the